

## 2022 Election Candidate Questionnaire for Montgomery County Council

Dear Candidate,

We ask that you complete our questionnaire so we understand your views on the pressing transportation issues facing Montgomery County. Your answers will be given to our membership for strictly education purposes only. Answers will also be posted on our website, shared on social media, listservs, and with our members in Montgomery County.

The questions are yes or no as well as questions that require you to elaborate for your response. We ask that you return the questionnaire by COB 4/2/22. Please email the questionnaire responses to me at [advocacy@waba.org](mailto:advocacy@waba.org). If you have any questions please email us. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to complete the questionnaire.

WABA **does not endorse** candidates for any political office.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Lowery  
Advocacy Director, WABA

### **Bike Network**

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association is proposing that the County fund the construction of bikeable/walkable networks in four Equity Focus Areas of the County, in Wheaton, White Oak, Langley Park and Downtown Silver Spring. Do you support this \$110 million proposal which will also help achieve the County's Climate and Vision Zero goals over six years?

Yes  No

What else do you think the County Council can do in the next term to make walking and biking safer and to help increase the biking and walking and transit mode shares?

In general, we need to improve pedestrian and cyclist comfort levels and to connect trail networks from where people live to where they need to go. My goal is to make sure the benefits of our bike networks are equitably distributed so that those who most need this low cost and carbon neutral form of transportation rely on it for their daily needs.

### **Police out of Traffic Enforcement**

Do you support removing police from all or some traffic enforcement?

Yes  No

How will you balance the need for traffic enforcement and equity while in office?

I have drafted and plan to introduce legislation that will prevent traffic stops based on non-safety related matters so that police can refocus their attention on issues that actually impact pedestrian and cyclist safety. Over the past decade, out of over 700,000 traffic citations, only 3,300 drivers have been cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian, and only 46 have been cited for passing a cyclist in an unsafe manner. Given how prevalent incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists are on our roads, clearly MCPD needs to shift its attention to better protect all road users.

### **Trails - repaving**

Do you support fully funding the budget request of the Parks Department to include monies for repaving the Sligo, Rock Creek and Capital Crescent Trails?

Yes  No

### **Tunnel**

Do you support funding the \$55m project for this important regional trail connection through downtown Bethesda?

Yes  No

Do you support funding that will complete construction of the project within the current FY 23-28 CIP period or sooner/later?

Yes  No

### **270 widening**

Do you support or oppose the proposal to widen parts of I-495 and I-270 to add four express toll lanes?

Yes  No

Why or why not? And how would you show that support or opposition. Do you support other new highways or road expansions?

History and research show that adding more lanes creates induced demand that actually worsens traffic woes. I also think the model of paid managed lanes has serious equity implications that creates an uneven dynamic for those who can afford the lanes and those who can't, and unlike the express lanes in Virginia, this proposal has no option to avoid the toll by carpooling, negating any potential environmental benefits. At this point, I think it is highly likely that this project will move forward. Given that unfortunate reality, I think we need to fully leverage the additional funds on offer to improve transit along the I-270 corridor.

## **Vision Zero**

Vision Zero - is it working and if not, what needs to be done by the County to achieve the goal of zero deaths due to traffic crashes? What would you do to work with the State Highway Administration to achieve true Vision Zero?

Prior to the pandemic, all indications were that Vision Zero had not been effective in reducing traffic deaths. The data since the pandemic started has been mixed. We have seen fewer deaths and serious injuries on our roads, but have seen a higher proportion of serious crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists result in death. With the limited data available and the dramatic changes that occurred during the past two years, it is hard to be certain what is really happening. We need to continue to take a comprehensive look at this issue. Just the walksheds around our schools will cost over \$100M. Our broader infrastructure needs for trails and paths are in the billions. I am also concerned that SHA has not been responsive to requests for pedestrian safety measures along state highways,

## **Transportation Equity Pledge**

[Will you sign our transportation equity pledge?](#) YES

Link to sign: <https://waba.org/blog/2022/01/transportation-equity-pledge-for-2022-candidates/>